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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,492	03/04/2002	Timothy A.M. Chuter	ENDOV-55673	5068

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EXAMINER

THALER, MICHAEL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/090,492	CHUTER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael Thaler	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13, 15, 29-46, 48, 49, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72-79 and 86-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13, 15, 29-46, 48, 49, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72-79 and 86-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 3731

Claim 61 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear what the endpoints are longitudinally offset from.

Claims 9-13, 15, 29-33, 35-40, 42, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72, 86, 88-90, 92 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kugler et al. (6,280,466). Kugler et al., in figures 3B and 6A, disclose graft component 45 having an opening and a plurality of structures (the triangular tabs at the top of the graft component 45 as seen in figure 3B and described in col. 15, lines 32-34) extending longitudinally beyond the opening (which is located at the base of the triangular tabs), expandable frame 50 (described in col. 10, lines 7-9, which is independently expandable from the caudal zone as indicated in col. 8, lines 46-48 and col. 9, lines 51-54 and thus, by itself, may be considered a "frame"), attaching structure 55, 52, anchoring structure (the barbs 58 which can be placed at the cranial end 50 as indicated in col. 11, lines 61-63), wherein the expandable frame 50 is longitudinally separated from the graft component 45 (by members 55). Alternatively, it would have been obvious that member 50, by itself, is a "frame" for

Art Unit: 3731

the reasons set forth above. As to claims 12 and 13, the edge portions of each tab would inherently be wrapped partially around the struts 53a, b, c, d when sutures (at 25) are wrapped around the struts and bite into the graft material as described in col. 15, line 37 to col. 16, line 4, resulting in a folding of each tab to some extent. As to claim 35, the end portion of barb 58 comprises a tail. As to claim 36, barb 58 is at the end of an edge of a strut. As to claims 38-40, Kugler et al. disclose reinforcing stent 30. As to claim 61, the endpoints of stent 30 at one end are longitudinally offset from the endpoints at the opposite end. As to claim 70, radiopaque markers 28a-28e are variable sized as seen in figure 3B, noting that some markers extend longitudinally to a greater extent than others. As to claim 72, Kugler et al. disclose first expandable frame 50 and second expandable frame 30. As to claim 86, the Kugler et al. attaching structure attaches the expandable frame to the graft component at discrete locations on the graft component. As to claim 88, the Kugler et al. reinforcing structures, expandable frame and anchoring structure are non-overlapping. Claims 34, 43-46, 48, 49 and 73-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kugler et al. (6,280,466). As to claim 34, Kugler et al. fail to disclose the barb being bidirectional. However, it was well known in this art to make

Art Unit: 3731

stent barbs bidirectional so that they are securely attached to the artery. It would have been obvious to make the Kugler et al. barbs 58 bidirectional so that it too would have this advantage. As to claims 43 and 73, Kugler et al. fail to disclose the stent 30 as including a barb. However, Kugler et al. teach that stents (e.g. at 52) should include barbs so that they can be securely attached to the artery (col. 11, lines 58-63). It would have been obvious to include barbs on the Kugler et al. stent 30 so that this stent too would have this advantage. As to claims 89 and 93, the first leg portion is attached along its length to the second leg portion.

Claims 41, 87 and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kugler et al. (6,280,466) in view of Dehdashtian et al. (6,368,345). As to claim 41, Kugler et al. fail to disclose the stent 30 being on the exterior of the graft component. However, Dehdashtian et al. teach that stent should be placed both on the exterior and interior of a graft apparently to properly support it (col. 11, line 55 to col. 12, line 4). It would have been obvious to locate stents on the Kugler et al. graft so that it too would have this advantage.

Applicant's arguments filed Feb. 17, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Only portion 50 of

Art Unit: 3731

Kugler et al. is considered to be the claimed frame. This frame 50 is longitudinally separated from the graft component 45.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2981. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

Art Unit: 3731

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Milano can be reached on (703)308-2496. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0858.

mht  
3/31/04



MICHAEL THALER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3731